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## POLITICS IN STATE INSTITUTIONS.

The address delivered by Hon. James L. Blair before the State Board of Charities which met in Columbia last week, certainly had the right ring. The making of political annexes of state institutions is a form of silk stocking corruption which the people are rising up against and are demanding that it be stopped.

All penal eleemosynary and educational institutions of this state are supported by the taxpayers of Missouri who have a right to demand that the money appropriated for their support should be wisely and judiciously spent and that those who manage these institutions be men qualified to do so.

If the Boards appointed to manage such institutions are to be mere figure heads they should be abolished and money used for maintaining them left in the state treasury.

Public institutions are maintained for the benefit of those who need the good derived from and not to compensate political ward heelers and party sympathizers.

Mr. Blair voice the sentiment of all good citizens when he says that such corruptible practices are disgraceful to the commonwealth of Missouri and must be stopped.

No man should be elected to aposition in a state institution because he is a Democrat nor dropped from such a position because he is a Republican.

The spoil system may work in State legislatures and subordinate clerkships, but when it comes to sacrificing the interest of State institutions to satisfy political grafters it is time to cry a halt.

The report of the religious census taken recently by the class in sociology shows that 55 per cent of the white population of Columbia are church members while only 42 per cent of the colored population are church goers it also shows that 18 per cent of the adult colored population express no church preference whatever, in other words are not concerned about church matters. This certainly is not a very commendable showing for the negroes of Columbia, living as we do in this educational center in a town with four colored churches with able pastors, and to find that 18 per cent of the negro men and women saying nothing about the children they have under their influence) without any religious inclination,

loitering around the streets and their homer on the Sabbath day boasting of the fact that they never go to church is a state of affairs that should cause all christians to ask themselves if they are doing their duty as christians. All who live upright christian lives have influence enough over at least one individual who is not a christian to persuade them to go church once a day on Sunday, and should feel it their duty to do so, religion is the only thing that will abolish crimes and immorality and to persuade men to go to church is to keep them out of prisons and rock piles but first of all those who persuade must walk in the right path themselves or no real good will be accomplished

## HISTORY OF HUNTING.

The recent newly awakened interest in the life and times of King Alfred, due to the celebration of the thousandth anniversary of his death and the placing of a statue at his birthplace has resulted in some interesting information on the evolution of the sportsman. One many see by reviewing the customs and conditions of Alfred's time, how it was that hunting came to be regarded as the noblest of all amusements. It was absolutely necessary to the safety and welfare of the people that the wolves, bears, wild boars, and other dangerous animals which then roamed over England, should be exterminated; and, of course, the king and his knights, as the bravest and best armed of the fighting population, were setting a good example and doing good service in their hunting parties. These conditions continued for some hundreds of years and the nobility of the sport of hunting became firmly established and hedged about with many traditions as to the proper method of killing the game. The persistence of traditions in England is proverbial; and hence, after the whole country became as safe as a barnyard, people continued to suppose that there was something essentially courageous and fine in deer-stalking and grouse shooting.

The question now confronted by the intelligent American citizen is this: whether it is necessary for a new country to take over the ideas and conventions of its parent on this subject. Are we to consider a man a sportsman because he kills rabbits and pigeons, as his father killed bears and panthers? Is the man who takes his sport with rod and gun any more manly or brave than the one who arms himself with a camera or a microscope? The Englishman would probably say yes, because he was brought up to believe so.

The fact seems to be, however, that mere ability to go

does not constitute sportsmanship. The old-time huntsman, encountering a stag at bay with the primitive weapons of his day, certainly did need to be brave; his modern piytotype, armed with a repeating rifle, is generally safe; the animal is the one who needs courage. The idea that popping about with a gun there is some peculiar manliness in shooting harmless animals is, we hope, a vanishing illusion.—Weekly Commercial.

## SOME WHYS ANSWERED.

The Ancient and Curious Origin of English Customs.

It is an interesting question of little things we do without knowing the reason. Why, for instance, do widows wear caps? Perhaps they may say because they make them look pretty and interesting. But the real reason is that when the Romans were in England they shaved their heads as a sign of mourning. Of course a woman couldn't let herself be seen with a bald head, so she made herself a pretty cap. And now, though the necessity of wearing it has passed away, the cap remains. Why do we have bows on the left side of our hats? In olden times, when men were much in the open air and hats couldn't be bought for half a dollar, it was the habit to tie a cord around the crown and let the ends fall on the left side to be grasped on the arising of a squall. They fell on the left side so they might be grasped by the left hand, the right hand being more usefully occupied. Later on, the ends got to be in a bow, and later still, they became bows, yet the bow has remained, and will probably remain till the next deluge or something of that sort. What is the meaning of the crosses or Xs on a barrel of beer? They signify degrees of quality nowadays. But originally they were put on by those ancient monks as a sort of trademark. They were crosses in those days, and meant a sort of oath on the cross, sworn by the manufacturer that his barrel contained good liquor. Why are bells tolled for the dead? This has become so familiar a practice that a funeral without would appear un-Christian. Yet the reason is quite barbarous. Bells were tolled long ago, when people were being buried, in order to frighten away the evil spirits who lived in the air. Why do pale ladies break a bottle of wine on the ship they are christening? Simply another survival of barbaric custom. In the days of sacrifices to the gods it was customary to get some poor victim when a boat was being launched and to cut his throat over the prow, so that his blood baptized it. Why are dignitaries deafened by a salute when they visit a foreign port? It seems a curious sort of welcome, this bang off of guns, but it seems the custom arose in a very reasonable way. Originally, a town or a warship fired off their guns on the approach of important and friendly strangers to show that they had such faith in the visitors' peaceful intentions they didn't think it necessary to keep their guns loaded. Why do we sometimes throw a shoe after a bride? The reason is not very complimentary. From of old it has been the habit of mothers to chastise their children with a shoe. Hence the custom arose of the father of a bride making a present to the bridegroom of a shoe, as a sign that it was to be his right to keep her in order.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

## Transportation in Ancient Egypt.

On the way to Philae and the head of the catenact, a short distance south of Assuan, we come upon the ancient quarries which supplied granite for the columns, statues and obelisks throughout Egypt for many centuries. From illustrations in the temples, it is clear that these monuments were floated down the river on flatboats and rafts, and then carried inland by artificial canals or dragged overland by thousands of slaves. In one of the tombs at Beni-Hassan is a picture illustrating the process. The great stone is loaded upon a huge sled drawn by a multitude of workmen. One man is engaged in pouring water upon the runners to prevent friction. Another stands at the left of the statue and beats time that the men may work in unison, while overseers, provided with whips, urge the laborers to their task.—Chautauquan.

## Your 1st Grandmother in America.

Cheloyan, Minn., claims to have the youngest grandmother in America. She married at 12, and gave birth to a daughter a year later. The child, following her mother's example, married young and lately when 16 years old gave birth to a child, whose grandmother is now a little over 29 years old.

## WONDERFUL ENDURANCE.

Archibald Forbes' Great Feat in the Turko-Servian War.

As an instance of the remarkable powers of endurance possessed by Archibald Forbes, the famous war correspondent who died in London recently, the following story is told: The brief war between Turkey and Servia ended with the battle of Djuala, in the autumn of 1876. Forbes was the only correspondent on the spot, and there Servia lay at the mercy of the Turks. At 5 in the afternoon, when he rode away from the battle, Forbes, more than 140 miles from his destination, a telegraph office at Semlin, in Hungary. He had an order for post horses at the road, and galloped hard for Paratchin, the nearest post station. When he got there the postmaster had a horse but no vehicle. All night long he rode that weary journey, changing horses every fifteen miles and forcing the beasts along at the heat of their speed. Soon after noon of the following day, sore from head to foot, Forbes was clattering over the stones of the Belgrade main street. The field telegraph wires had conveyed but a curt, fragmentary intimation of disaster; and all Belgrade, feverish for further news, rushed out to meet the correspondent. But he had ridden hard all night, not to gossip in Belgrade, but to get to Semlin telegraph wire, and he never drew rein till he reached the ferry. At Semlin he took one long drink of beer, and then sat down to the task of writing, hour after hour, against time, the great tidings he carried. After he had written his story and put it on the wires he lay down in his clothing and slept twenty hours without so much as turning. He had meant to start back for Belgrade on the evening of the day of his arrival at Belgrade, but fatigue caused him to sleep twenty-four hours. It seemed to him when he recovered from slumber that perhaps, after all, he was entitled to a good long sleep. He had witnessed a battle that lasted six hours, ridden 140 miles and written the Daily News a telegraphic message four columns long—all in the space of thirty hours.

## RUSSIAN SPIES HERE.

They Are Keeping a Watch on Nihilists Who Seek Refuge in America.

The Russian secret police are probably the most skillful in the world; they need to be. In the days of Napoleon III. the police of France had that reputation. They haven't it now for the best of reasons. An emperor needs spies in all the world; a republic doesn't. Russia has had its lessons in the death of the late czar and in many attempts made upon the present ruler. So the chief of political police keeps agents in every great city in the world. New York, where so many Russian nihilists have found refuge, San Francisco and Chicago are especially favored in this way. Escaped convicts from Siberia sometimes drift to the Pacific coast city, while Chicago is watched on general principles. New York, however, is getting to be more and more the chief object of the solicitous attentions of the czar's people. The spies who keep tabs on nihilists in America always claim to be nihilists themselves, exiled for their political views, or escaped suspects. It is their plan to secure admittance to some of the many nihilist circles here and keep the police informed of what goes on. So long as the nihilists confine themselves to speech-making nothing it does about it. But, if one of them should start for St. Petersburg with such a mission as that which took Bresel from Paterson the home authorities would be warned and stand ready to receive him after certain well-known recedents. As for the spy, his is a dangerous life. If suspected he may become at almost any time the hero of a mysterious murder case.

## Incentive to Good Roads.

A natural effect of the free delivery system is the improvement of highways throughout the country. In locating free delivery routes the condition of the roads is always an important consideration, and many petitions have been denied on the ground that the highways were not fit for travel during the muddy months of the year. This point is now understood, and every petition that comes to the department these days is accompanied by an offer or a pledge on the part of the county commissioners to improve the roads and put them in a condition as rapidly as the new system is established.

## A Spectacular Race.

The 1000 yard race prelated by the Chicago race, for the benefit of one of the charitable institutions of the city, was participated in by the elite of Florence, and a large number of noble audiences, including the mayor of Paris and his party, witnessed the event. Three ladies of the French colony—Miss Thompson, Miss Ireland and Miss Walsh—took part in the race, which was a great success. A. E. Harbach, in Chicago Record.

## Counting Gulls.

An example of the cunning of gulls was observed at Tacoma, when several alighted on a bunch of logs that had been in the water for a long time, with the submerged sides thick with barnacles. One was a big gray fellow who seemed to be the captain. He walked to a particular log, stood on one side of it, close to the water, and then uttered peculiar cries. The other gulls came and perched on the same side of the log, which, under their combined weight, rolled over a few inches. The gulls, step by step, kept the log rolling until the barnacles showed above the water. The birds picked eagerly at this food, and the log was not abandoned until every barnacle had been picked.—Golden Days.

## WISE KING CANUTE.

How He Taught His Courtiers a Lesson in Humility.

The old story of Canute rebuking his courtiers is well known to most of us. King Canute, desirous of teaching his flattering courtiers a lesson, caused his throne to be set up on the seashore as the tide was coming in and nearing its height. Surrounded by all the great dignitaries of the kingdom, he summoned the flatterers to his presence and asked them if they believed the sea would recognize his authority. "Believe it," cried Earl Eadfrid, "there is no doubt of it. Your majesty has but to command, you will be obeyed." The obsequious courtiers joined in a chorus of "So say we, all of us." "Very good," said the king, "now do you, each in turn, stand on the steps of your throne and bid the sea retire." His command was obeyed and courtier after courtier, after complying, retired baffled amid the jeering laughter of the populace. In this manner the time was fully occupied until the hour of flood was passed and the tide was just about the ebb when the king ascended the throne. He bade the waves retire and was soon left in triumph upon dry ground, amid the loud applause of his loyal subjects. "You see, gentlemen," he said, turning to his courtiers, "there is all the difference in the world between a regular three-ply all-wool king, like myself, and a lot of insignificant subjects like you. Let this experience teach you humility."

## DIET OF CRUSTACEANS.

How Monkeys Hunt for Land Crabs in Jungles.

"Most monkeys have a liking for land crabs, and the beasts when in their natural element in the jungle will often travel for miles to some marshy region in search of a crustacean meal," said a dealer in all sorts of wild animals to a Washington Star writer. "Some years ago, when I was in Singapore trading with the natives for monkeys, I was one day greatly amused to see the artful methods practiced by jocko to trap crabs. The monkey, having located the whereabouts of the crabs, lies flat down on his stomach, feigning death. Presently from the countless passages piercing the mud in every direction thousands of little red and yellow crabs make their appearance, and after suspiciously eyeing for a few minutes the brown fur of the monkey they slowly and cautiously slide up to him in great glee at the prospect of a big feed off the bones of Master Jocko. The latter now peeps through his half-closed eyelids and fixes upon the biggest of the assembled multitude. When the crab comes within reach, out dashes the monkey's arms, and off he scampers into the jungle with a cry of delight, to discuss at leisure his cleverly earned dinner. Rarely did the monkeys seem to miss their prey. I saw, however, in old fellow do so, and it was ludicrous in the extreme to see the rage it put him in. Jumping for fully a minute up and down on all fours at the mouth of the hole into which the crab had escaped, he positively howled with vexation. Then he set to work poking the mud about with his fingers at the entrance to the passage, fruitlessly trying now and again to peep into it."

## Speaker Farris and Col Crisp.

Col. Crisp, when in the Missouri legislature, was one of the central figures in a scene which promised bloodshed, which ended in a hearty laugh, and which was the cause of an astounding remark from Hon. John W. Farris, the then speaker. Crisp and another beligerent son of Anak got into a debate which grew into a quarrel. They shook their fists at each other and roared like a pair of Numidian lions. Everybody expected and many hoped to see a regular old-fashioned knock-down and drag-out fight, which expectations and hopes were frustrated and dashed to the ground by Speaker Farris' remarks: "If you gentlemen do not quit fussing and take to your seats I will order the chaplain to take you into custody!" which so amazed the beligerent legislators that they stood in a state of lingual paralysis, while the spectators laughed till they were red in the face. Humor saved the day.—Champ Clark, in Denver Republican.